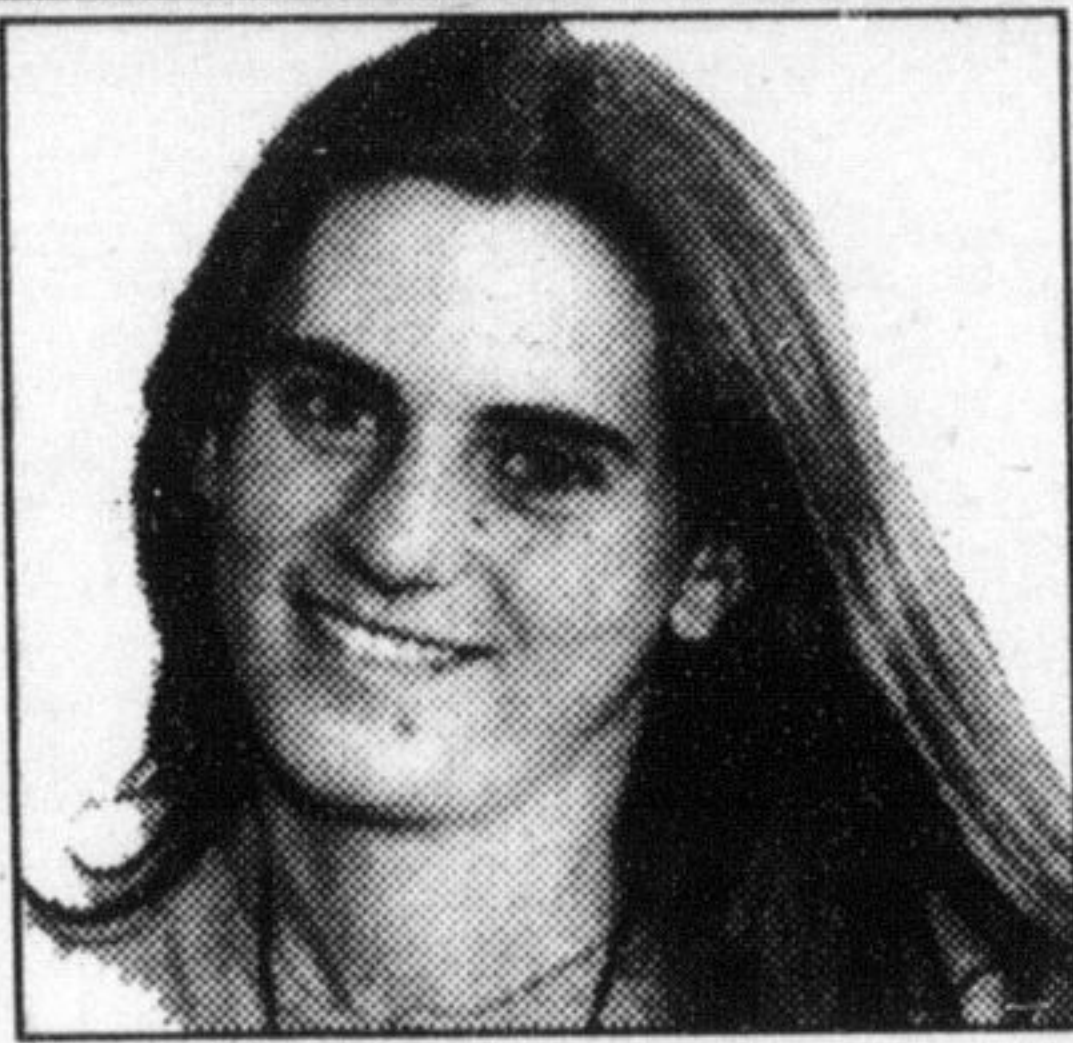
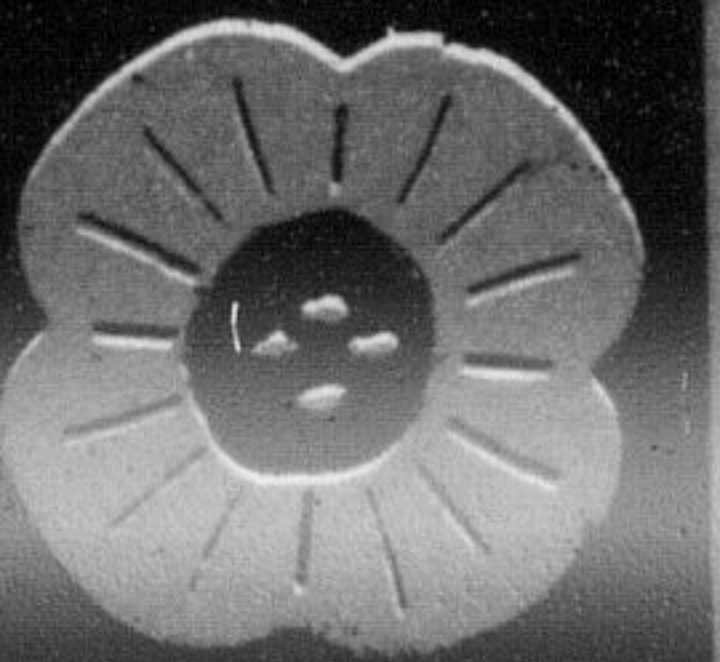


REMEMBRANCE DAY - 1997



Amy Mohr

What Remembrance Day means to me

On November 11, 1918 after thousands of Canadian soldiers died, the First World War ended. A tradition started then and has continued to grow stronger since that time. Each year we celebrate Remembrance Day, but do we really know the meaning behind this day?

Many of the youth today are unaware of the reasons we observe Remembrance Day. As a high school student who, hopefully, understands its purpose, I feel sympathy for my peers who are less aware of this special day. Perhaps this article will serve to help them learn more. Try to imagine how the thousands of young men and women felt who went to war. These soldiers went to fight for our freedom and the freedom of other countries. These men and women were our age, sometimes as young as 16 years old.

Imagine leaving your family and friends to go to another country and watch your comrades being killed. Right now students in their final year of high school are preparing to go on to university or college — imagine yourselves instead being drafted to fight in the war. I find it hard to conjure up images of dodging bullets or firing a gun because today war is not an immediate danger. War is not a threat to our society because of the efforts of Canadian soldiers.

On Remembrance Day we take time to stop and pay tribute to the men and women who fought for us, and died for us. We wear a poppy as a reminder of the blood-red flower which grew in the fields where many of our soldiers died. We wear a poppy in memory of the people who died for their country, our country.

What does Remembrance Day mean to us? Dick Clement, a war veteran with the Irish Regiment of Canada, expresses his thoughts and feelings about war in a speech he made to high school students: "The scales may never be fully balanced and war will always be a present danger... and I ask you to never, never forget these people. They gave their lives so that you could be free today. No greater love has any man or woman that they would give their lives for their country. It is your duty now to see that they are never forgotten".

This is the true meaning behind Remembrance Day. On this day we give thanks for our freedom as we remember all the brave people who fought for us.

Remembrance Day is a time when I reflect on the tragedies of war. I think about the horrors the soldiers endured so our generation could live independent and free.

As the Royal Canadian Legion wrote: "All these people went to war to protect Canada. They went to war to protect the people who were in Canada then, and to protect the people who would be born in the future — people like yourselves. They died so that you could enjoy all the good things in your life... so perhaps you didn't know these men who died in war. But they knew you. They wanted you to live in peace".

POPPY TRUST FUNDS

The poppy campaign is the Legion's moment of truth: unless it succeeds, all the high-sounding ideals surrounding Legion work are nothing but empty words.

The campaign must be measured by its effectiveness in promoting Remembrance and by the amount of money it raises to help needy ex-service personnel and their dependents.

WHO OWNS THE FUNDS

Poppy funds are public funds, held in trust by the Legion until spent as designed. They must be kept in separate trust accounts. And they must be spent, not accumulated for a rainy day. Normally, at least 90 percent of the funds collected each year should be spent before the next campaign.

WHAT THE FUNDS DO

The funds provide financial assistance to needy Canadian ex-service personnel, and merchant navy personnel possessing or eligible for campaign stars or decorations, and their dependents. Also eligible are ex-service personnel of other Commonwealth and Allied countries, now resident in Canada.

Authorized uses also include:

- the cost of operating a service bureau or its equivalent;
- bursaries to children and grandchildren of ex-service personnel;
- prizes for promotional contests directly connected with the campaign
- campaign costs, including the purchase of poppies, wreaths, promotional aids, canvassing supplies, reasonable expenses of poppy chairmen and committee members, advertising expenses and telephone telegraph, postage and stationery.

OTHER USES FOR THE FUNDS

A command, or, subject to the prior approval of the provincial command, a district, zone, branch or group of branches, may allot poppy funds for:

- community medical appliances and medical research;
- drop-in centres for the elderly, meals on wheels, transportation and related services for veterans, their dependents and the aged;
- donations for relief of disasters declared by the federal or provincial governments
- under certain conditions, housing for ex-servicemen, the elderly and disabled;
- within limits, assistance to ex-service personnel and dependents of Commonwealth countries residing outside Canada, e.g. donations to the Legion's BCEL Fund.

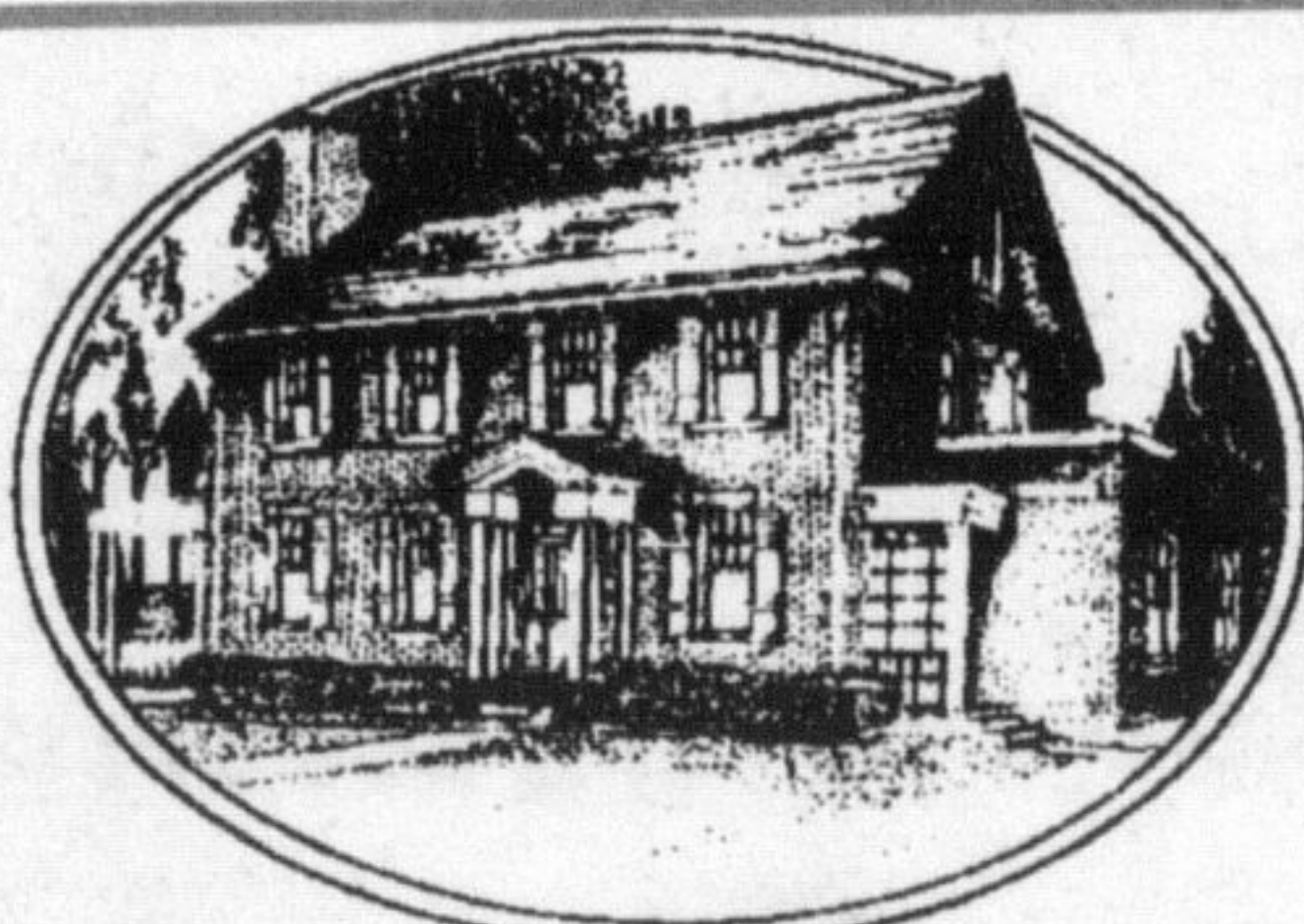
WHAT THE FUNDS CAN'T DO

The following and any items not covered in the General Bylaws are not permitted:

- cost of branch administration;
- purchase, erection, extension or renovation of branch premises;
- rental of property or purchase of equipment or furnishings for branch use;
- public-service projects such as recreational facilities;
- furnishings and non-medical equipment for hospital ward/rooms;
- subscriptions to newspapers or periodicals, even for hospitals;
- purchase of wreaths for funerals;
- transportation cost for funerals for relatives;
- any form of entertainment;
- bus tours for elderly veterans, or recreational pursuits;
- scholarships;
- maintenance of cemeteries;
- loans.



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